REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Introduction

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated December 22, 2004.

Original claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11 are canceled.

Claims 4, 5, 9 and 12-25 are pending in the application.

Claims 4, 5, 9 and 12-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, but would be allowed if rewritten if the recitation "a first end and a second end" in line 3 of claim 4 were amended to read -- a front end and a back end --. Claim 4 has been so amended. Claim 16 has been amended to change "first end" to --front end --.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as it depends from a canceled claim. Claim 25 has been amended to depend from claim 13. The preamble has been changed to an apparatus.
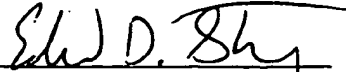
Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claim rejections. It is submitted that this application is condition for allowance. If there are any question, call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P02233US0 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: March 21, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

By _Edward D. Steakley_
Edward D. Steakley
Registration No.: 47,964
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
1301 McKinney, Suite 5100
Houston, Texas 77010-3095
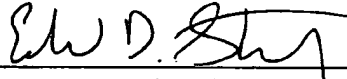(713) 651-5423
(713) 651-5246 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a copy of the Response to Office Action Dated 12/24/2004, in a manner provided in 37 CFR 1.248, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on March 21, 2005, addressed to:

Cynthia G. Seal
2925 Briarpark, Suite 930
Houston, Texas 77042

Edward D. Steakley